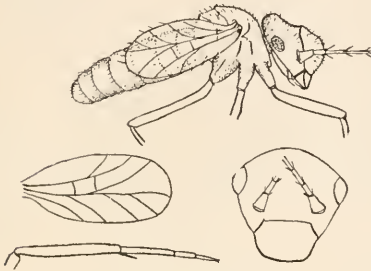


A New Genus of Atropidae.

By NATHAN BANKS.

The Atropidae were in former times known from the Psocidae not only by the absence of ocelli, but also by the absence of wings. Now, however, there are two genera with one pair of



wings, at least in one sex; these are *Psoquilla* Hagen and *Dorypteryx* Aaron. Hagen erected the genus *Psoquilla* for a very handsome species of which he had seen but one specimen, supposedly from Hamburg. McLachlan in his monograph of the British Psocidae recorded two specimens found in England, and gives an excellent figure of the insect. Other than these two references the species appears to be unknown. The species is probably a native of some tropical country, and its occurrence in Europe due to occasional importations.

Dorypteryx was proposed by Aaron for a pale insect found among piles of books in Philadelphia. It is a very active little form and jumps readily. The female appears to be normally apterous, but the male has slender wings, held close to the body, after the manner of *Boreus*. I have found it among books at Washington, D. C. Although it may be an importation it appears to be fully established at the present time.

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To these two genera I can now add a third, which was recently sent me by Mrs. A. T. Slosson in a vial of spiders from Biscayne Bay, Florida. Mrs. Slosson writes that this little atropid was caught destroying her butterflies while on the stretching boards. Although the harm done in her case was trifling, the insect could, with a little carelessness, become quite a pest in insect boxes.

Psocinella n. gen.

No ocelli; two short wings (mesothoracic), somewhat more than twice as long as broad, broadly rounded at the tip, with several veins and a closed central cell; costal vein forked toward tip; the median vein gives off three branches behind and one in front; anal vein simple; no trace of hind wings; legs slender, femora not dilated, tarsi three-jointed, basal joint long and slender, hind tibia longer than the femora (but not as much

as in *Dorypteryx*); head not very broad and the eyes not especially prominent; antennæ filiform; abdomen rather slender.

Type, *P. slossonæ*.

This genus differs from *Dorypteryx* by the shape and venation of the wings: from *Psoquilla* by less prominent eyes, venation and less swollen femora. *Psoquilla* is evidently its nearest ally; in that genus, however, the costal vein is not forked, there are but two branches below from the median vein, the anterior branch of the median is forked; the head is broad and eyes very prominent; and the abdomen is broad and depressed.

The three genera of Atropidæ with veined wings may be tabulated as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Wings broad, rounded at tip | 2. |
| Wings lanceolate, femora slender | Dorypteryx. |
| 2. Costal vein forked, femora slender | Psocinella. |
| Costal vein simple, femora slightly dilated | Psoquilla. |

Psocinella slossonæ n. sp.

Whitish, head yellowish, antennæ purplish, a black spot above on the fourth abdominal segment, tibiæ blackish. Wings hyaline, veins hyaline, reaching beyond middle of abdomen; the costal vein forked near tip; the median joined to the costal in two places near center of wing thus forming a closed cell; upper branch of median vein simple, three simple branches below; anal vein simple. Antennæ filiform (broken beyond sixth joint). Head not broad above, nasus prominent; legs slender, basal joint of tarsus about one-half as long as tibia; hind tibia plainly longer than hind femora; abdomen slender, subcylindric. Body and legs sparsely clothed with fine short hairs.

Length, 1.1 mm.

Described from two specimens collected at Biscayne Bay, Florida, by Mrs. A. T. Slosson, to whom the species is dedicated.

Since this paper was written Dr. C. Ribaga has published the description of a new genus and species* similar to the above. His genus, *Psocathropos*, has the venation on the same plan, but the veins are bent out of the straight course observed in *Psocinella*. The thorax of his insect is much smaller than in *Psocinella*. An important difference is that *Psocathropos* has very short hind femora, while in *Psocinella* they are a little longer than the other pairs.

* Descrizione di un nuovo genere e di una nuova specie di Psocidi trovato in Italia. *Revista Patol. vegetale*, VIII, p. 156 (September, 1899).